

A POET'S OPINION OF MUNICH.*

THE ancient portion of the city of Munich appears to me like an ancient rose-tree, from which new branches shoot out every year; but every branch is a street, every leaf is a palace, a church, or a monument; and every thing appears so new, so fresh, for it has but this moment unfolded itself. . . . Every city, from Rome the eternal, to our own silent Sorbè, has its peculiar character, with which one can be intimate—even attach oneself to; but Munich has something of all places: we know not if we are in the south or the north. I at least felt a disquiet here, a desire to leave it again. Should any one fancy that my description of Munich contains crude and contradictory images, then I have given the most just picture according to the impression that the town has made on me. Every thing here appeared to me to be a contradiction. Here were Catholicism and Protestantism, Grecian art and Bavarian art. Unity I have not found here: every handsome detail appears to have been taken from its original home and placed in and about old Munich, which is a town like a hundred others in Germany. The Post Office, with its red painted walls and hovering figures, is taken from Pompeii; the New Palace is a copy of the Duke of Tuscany's palace in Florence,—each stone is like that of the other. The Au church, with its stained-glass windows, its colossal, lace-like tower, in which every thread is a huge block of stone, reminds us of St. Stephen's Church in Vienna; whilst the Court Chapel, with its mosaic pictures on a gilt ground, wafts us to Italy. I found but one part in Munich that can be called great and characteristic, and that is Ludwig-street. The buildings here in different styles of architecture blend together in a unity, as the most different flowers form a beautiful garland. The gothic-built University, the Italian palaces, even the garden close by, with its painted piazzas, supply a perfect whole. . . . Even the streets and buildings in this new city will not, as yet, attach themselves to each other; the Pinakothek, with its elevated windows in the roof, has, from the spot on which I am standing, the appearance of a large boathouse, or conservatory, and such it is; there, as in the Glyptothek, we wander amongst the most beautiful productions of art, brought together from the four corners of the world. In the Pinakothek are all the varieties of growing plants, and the saloons are equally as gorgeous as the flowers. In the Glyptothek stand the immortal figures by Scopas, Thorwaldsen, and Canova, and the walls are resplendent with colours that will tell posterity of Cornelius, Zimmerman, and Schlotthauer.

Correspondence.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS.

SIR,—At the time the New Buildings Act was under consideration, I ventured to submit to Lord Lincoln the propriety of a provision, that in all new buildings the drains should be mapped on every lease, or that some indication should be made in that part of the walls under which the drains might pass, as a means of saving future trouble and annoyance to the inmates in searching for the drains, when requiring reparation. It may be considered by short-sighted tradesmen, that a difficulty of this kind, or slovenly construction, in the first instance, is good for trade, by creating work; on the contrary, however, it frequently deters employers from indulging in improvements, from a fear of being ill-used by bad work and enormous charges.

I have frequently experienced the necessity of the indications alluded to, in the course of business, but never more so than in two instances, where I have lately been engaged in relieving the premises from the dreadful effluvia arising from badly-constructed drains and the ingress of rats. It would appear improbable to any but the initiated, that houses of the first class, in such neighbourhoods as Hyde-park-square and Brunswick-square, had drains from their water-closets through the basement, and into the sewer, without any "traps," and were laid without cement or mortar,—every joint being open, and so deficient of a proper fall, that the drain just outside the front wall of the

house has a subsidence, causing a perfect pond or dip of stagnant soil and water. While such a course of proceeding as this is allowed in buildings for the wealthier class, it is hardly to be expected that the middle and poorer classes can escape from the evils arising from badly-constructed drains. The basements being saturated with putrid moisture, and the foundation-walls carried up with place bricks (half a brick on each side, with the middle filled in with rubbish, as is well known to be the case in much task-work), there can be no wonder that houses fall before their chimneys are carried up to their proper height, more especially when the mortar is composed of one part lime and five, six, and even seven parts of screened mould, found on the premises. It is farcical to ascribe the fall of newly-built houses to the vibratory effect of a few men going up and down the ladder.

I am, Sir, &c., VINCENT YARDELEY.

PATENT ORNAMENTAL TILES.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter signed "J. Reed," in your valuable journal, upon the subject of ornamental tiles, and I feel assured that your high sense of justice will induce you to give place to these few lines in your next publication, that a proper interpretation may be put upon it.

Mr. Reed undoubtedly was the patentee of the ornamental tiles to which he refers, but in that patent right he has no longer (as you may infer from the tone of his letter) any interest whatever, having disposed of that interest to the present proprietors, which will account for the uncalled for condemnation of the invention in which he now takes upon himself to indulge; but for what real purpose you may, after this explanation, the more readily imagine.

The design given in your journal is undoubtedly highly ornamental, but is, in fact, in truth, and in principle, the identical tile comprised in his former patent, with some additional embellishment, which additional embellishment the Architectural Tile Company would readily adopt did they consider it would be acceptable to the public: at present they do not.

I avail myself of this opportunity to caution Mr. Reed, that should he venture to make the tiles in question without the license of the parties whom I represent, it will be a direct infringement of their patent right, and will be immediately followed up by legal proceedings.

I am, Sir, &c., J. G. HUGHES,
Secretary to the Architectural Tile Company.

Miscellaneous.

SAWYERS' STRIKE AT SUNDERLAND.—The sawyers of this town have been "on strike" during the last five weeks for an advance of wages. The masters state that the men have no reasonable ground of complaint, as their wages have averaged from 33s. to 35s. per week. This statement is denied by the men in the local papers, who say,—"A sawyer's time is calculated at 62 hours per week, or 10½ working hours for five days, and 9½ hours for Saturday; and the cutting of 200 feet of hard wood is considered a good day's work for those hours; the wages for which have been 7s. for a pair of sawyers, or 3s. 6d. per man per day; which is only 21s. per week, instead of 33s. to 35s." They require that the wages for cutting 200 feet of hard wood should be 8s., which is 4s. per day per man.

IRON SHINGLES.—We learn that William Beach, of Troy, New York, has invented and patented a mode of using cast-iron plates for covering roofs. They are about 1 foot square, and are made to fit one into another, so as to render the roof water-tight by applying white lead to the joints. It can be afforded at 16 cents the square foot, and comes about half the cost of copper. They weigh three-and-half pounds a square foot. Slate costs 8 cents per square foot.—*Montreal Herald.*

PROJECTED WORKS.—Contracts have been called for, by advertisement, for the various works necessary in the formation of portions of the North Kent, Lynn and Dereham, Blackburn Junction, and two Shrewsbury lines of railway; for rails, sleepers, and chairs, for a line at Ambergate; for the various works of a meeting-house and alterations at Ackworth; and for a large quantity of cast-iron water-pipes at Liverpool, &c.

LOCOMOTION.—Facilities for travelling, on a novel and extensive plan, are said to be contemplated by the rudimental members of a combination or association of rather an original, go-ahead character, consisting exclusively of proprietors, tenants, and servants, of hotels, in England, France, &c.; whose sphere of operation is to extend, by railway trains, river and ocean steamers, or other requisite conveyance, over great part of Europe; over all or any part of which, by means of the "open sesame" of "a circular note," to the exclusion either of bank notes or mint-money, a passenger may range at will, without the least trouble about the details of his journey;—places by railway and by steamers being secured; fares paid; passports taken out, and inspection superintended; luggage taken care of, passed, and readjusted; all by the sharehold-servants of the various hotels, through which, of course, it is expected he will pass; and where his bills will be settled for him; and more than that, his pocket-money furnished to him;—and all this by "only stating his object," at the point and period of his departure; and lastly, though not least, by only "making the necessary deposit of the sum he may require or mean to expend." "Such," as reported," says the *Daily News*, "are the outlines of an undertaking by which a system of paper-values promises to be vastly extended (not introduced) over great part of Europe; where, upon the lesser scale of bank circular notes, it indeed already circulates; without offering, however, anything like the accommodation, or being available for the uses and objects here held out." This ingenious system of serving the public, or, as it may be, of plucking them as they go, or rather as they are sent, like ticketed parcels, along the line of their respective destinations, only requires, to render it perfect and complete, the adoption of Douglas Jerrold's suggestion, that "in case of bullion becoming scarce, the great railway companies should be allowed to issue paper money, or 'conveyance notes,' in which they would pay all their servants, and in which the public would pay them, instead of in cash, for the conveyance of passengers and goods." The universal adoption of this floating-rag-capital-system of steam conveyance, such as this, in "running in and fro" throughout the world, would form rather a curious medium between the Iron Age and the Age of Gold.

STREET CELLAR-PLATES.—A correspondent of the *Morning Herald* draws attention to a perpetually recurring source of complaint; in the imperfect state of the iron-plates over coal cellars beneath the pavement, and the neglect of fastening them down inside, even when the hooks are not worn off, or the outside rivets destroyed by friction, as many of them are. The blacksmiths might reap a little harvest in repairing jobs of this description, while ensuring the public safety both against broken limbs and thievish children.

SCARCITY OF WORKMEN AT NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Newfoundland papers complain of the inadequate supply of mechanical skill in the island, and the consequent high rate of wages. Many of the artisans employed were obtaining 8s. 6d. to 10s. per diem, and they very often, it is stated, make a day and a half out of 24 hours. Carpenters and masons were most in requisition. The price of building materials has considerably advanced, pine lumber selling for 5l. to 6l. per thousand, and bricks at 50s. to 60s.

SALE OF MAHOGANY.—At a late sale of mahogany and other fancy woods (2,203 logs, principally Honduras and St. Domingo, with 434 planks of rosewood), the biddings were rather brisk. Of the Honduras, 432 logs were sold by private contract at 54d., 202 (by auction), averaged 5 13—32d., 204 averaged 5 1—32d., 142 6 5—12d., and 17 logs 6½d. per foot; of St. Domingo, 100 logs sold at 6 13—16d., and 440 logs at 6½d. per foot; of Cuba, 154 logs brought 6½d. per foot.

CORONER'S INQUESTS ON THE CAUSES OF FIRES.—The revival, in the metropolis, of the good old custom of instituting judicial inquests on the causes of fires, has led to the adoption of measures, at Liverpool, for the re-establishment of the same practice. A resolution to this effect was unanimously carried in the Council last week; when it was stated by Mr. Horsfall, who moved the resolution, that during the last five years, a million of money has been consumed in fires at Liverpool alone.

* From "A Poet's Bazaar," by Christian Anderson. (Bentley.)